

November 1997

The Preface to the Second Edition of the Big Book explains that revisions to the personal history section of the book were made in order "to represent the current membership of Alcoholics Anonymous more accurately, and thereby to reach more alcoholics."

In that spirit, the 1997 General Service Conference recommended that: "A draft Fourth Edition of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, be developed and a progress report be brought to the 1998 Conference Literature Committee, keeping in mind the 1995 Advisory Action that 'The first 164 pages of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, the Preface, the Forewords, "The Doctor's Opinion," "Dr. Bob's Nightmare," and the Appendices remain as is.' "

The Subcommittee on Literature has asked the Grapevine to publish a call to AA members to submit stories for possible inclusion in the Fourth Edition. Bill W. once defined Big Book stories as "personal narratives which describe the drinking history, how the newcomer arrived at Alcoholics Anonymous, how AA affected him [or her], and what AA has since accomplished for him." The subcommittee states that "the emphasis will be on stories of alcoholics which reflect a broad range of experience."

- Manuscripts should be double-spaced and not more than 3, 500 words.
- The words "Fourth Edition" should appear on the outside envelope and at the top of the first page.
- Your mailing address should appear on the first page of the manuscript.
- A copy of your manuscript should be retained for your own files.
- The deadline is June 1, 1998.
- Mail to: Literature Coordinator, General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10163.